

Remarks

The Applicant acknowledges the earlier election of Claims 39 – 58 and respectfully requests that further treatment of Claims 59 – 76 be held in abeyance pending final disposition of Claims 39 – 58.

The Applicant has amended Claim 39 to include subject matter from Claims 43 and 44. Claims 43 and 44 have, therefore, been cancelled. Claim 39 has also been amended to recite that the second part is necessary to reconstruct the original video program. This disclosure may be found throughout the Applicant's Specification such as in Paragraphs [0103], [0107] and [0188] for example. This collective text makes it clear that the second part is essential to reconstruction of the original video program as evidenced by the "prevents the watching," "this message ensures that nobody can watch...to the portal server" and "these I images, necessary for the multimedia content to be usable..." language. Entry into the official file and consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 39 – 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the combination of Decinque with Block. The Applicant respectfully submits that even if one skilled in the art were to make the hypothetical combination, the resulting methodology would still fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of the Applicant's solicited claims. Detailed reasons are set forth below.

Block discloses labeling of audio/video components of television programs to block their display in col. 2, par. 2. It is important in Block that the labels do not form part of the original video program because they are only additional information which will be interpreted by a label interpretation unit 110 to block or allow the display of the corresponding component.

Block also discloses that substitute signals can be provided in col. 4, par 3. These substitute signals replace the entire normal corresponding components as discussed in col. 19, lines 18 – 23.

An application of the labeling is disclosed in col. 5, par. 5 which develops the subject matter control of video programs (general public vs parental guidance...) to permit display of certain categories of contents or mask certain portions of video signal or bleep out the audio signal (col. 8, lines 55-58).

Thus, Block provides in the same file an entire digital content comprising labels. Depending on the labels, the display of the content can be modified and, even, a substitute audio or video component can be used to replace an undesired component.

This is in sharp contrast to the Applicant's claims which do not provide the entire digital content in a single file or stream. A part of the content is taken out from the original content (the reference images) to form a second file. The latter is provided to the user independently from the first part.

There is a major advantage: from the sole first part it is impossible to recover the original content because some information is not present (the second part), whereas the file according to Block comprises all the information of the original content (a cracker only needs to deactivate the labels to recover the original content). As discussed in the Applicant's Specification in Paragraph [0107], one can view the multimedia content without being connected to the portal comprising the second part.

Returning now to the particulars of the rejection and the Examiner's helpful comments concerning in particular Claims 43 and 44, the Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's detailed comments and the reference to col. 24, lines 32 – 57 for support for the rejection of those claims. The Applicant reproduces that portion of the Block disclosure below for the Examiner's convenience.

According to further embodiments of the invention, the local information label LIL can be used to control the transmission of program signals from a central station. As shown in Fig. 1, the system may include a communication link 15, such as a telephone line, a line in a two-way cable system, or a return path in a radio communication system, by which the user can transmit the local information label LIL from the viewer station equipment 20 to the central station equipment 10. The central station equipment 10 preferably includes a label interpretation unit and an access control unit which process the code and program signals in a manner similar to that described above. The code interpretation unit, for example, determines whether the local category codes transmitted to the central station equipment 10 are less than the transmitted category codes within the program signal. The user can then be advised as to the availability of the chosen program in light of the user's local category labels. The customer can then decide if he/she wants to view the program and whether masking should be used. In addition, if the program has different versions, or has substitute audio and video signals, the particular program to be provided to the user can be determined by the local category labels. This embodiment may eliminate the need to send substitute signals to the viewer station equipment 20. It is particularly suited, for example, to a "video on demand" system in which each user has its own allocated channel.

The Applicant has carefully reviewed this language and finds no disclosure, teachings, or suggestions in that text with respect to the Applicant's claimed second part stored on the multimedia server and corresponding to the original reference images and information allowing reconstruction of the original video program from the first part, wherein the second part is obtained with a connection to the multimedia server each time the user wants to watch the video program and is necessary to reconstruct the original video program. In other words, there is no teaching or suggestion in Block that the entire digital content is broken into two parts. Instead, the Block digital content is contained within a single file or stream. While it is possible in the Block disclosure that there can be different versions or substitute signals, those different versions and/or substitute signals are sent in a single stream. There is no actual division of the stream into two parts as claimed by the Applicant.

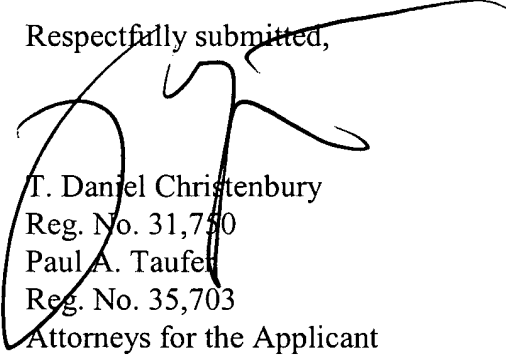
Moreover, the Applicant respectfully submits that col. 24, lines 32 – 57 fail to provide any

teachings or suggestions that the second part is necessary to reconstruct the original video program. The reason for this is that Block, in col. 24, lines 32 – 57 does not divide the stream into two parts in the first place. It is, therefore, inherently not possible for Block to have a second part that is necessary to reconstruct the original video program when Block does not divide the stream in the first place.

Decinque on the other hand has no disclosure concerning division of the stream into two parts. Therefore, even if one skilled in the art were to hypothetically combine Decinque with Block, the resulting method would still fail to teach or suggest dividing the stream into two parts, much less having the second part being necessary to reconstruct the original video program. Withdrawal of the rejection based on the combination of Decinque with Block is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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